

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CONFIDENTIAL

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a directive was issued by Headquarters Rear Services of the Air Force, Moscow, to the effect that [redacted] the personnel of the Sergeants' Staff (Serzhantski Sostav), who, though enlisted men, performed the duties of officers, would be eligible for commissions. The persons affected by this directive were directed by it to report to Headquarters, 24th Air Army, Werder, from where they would proceed in a body to Moscow to appear before an examining board. This board would assign them commissions up to and including the rank of senior lieutenant. The directive also provided that personnel of the Sergeants' Staff who had performed certain designated officers' duties for a period of three (or four) or more years could be commissioned after taking a four to five months' OCS course at 24th Air Army Headquarters, without going to Moscow. The directive further provided that personnel of the Sergeants' Staff who had performed officers' duties for a period of less than three (or four) years, and who had demonstrated exceptional ability in their performance of such duties, could, at the decision of the commanding officer, be placed in "Category III" and receive their commissions at Werder merely by attending certain specified lectures at the OCS and by taking the final examination. The directive only authorized and did not compel commanding officers to send eligible personnel up for commissioning. Commanding officers were authorized, at their discretion, to retain a man in his duty status as long as he was considered indispensable.

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